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Amend B

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

IUCHI et al.

Appln. No. 09/758,269

Filed: January 12, 2001

Atty. Ref.: 3914-3

Group Art Unit: 1638

Examiner: C.E. Collins

FOR: TRANSGENIC PLANTS CARRYING NEOXANTHIN CLEAVAGE ENZYME GENE

* * *

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

February 13, 2003

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the pending Office Action (Paper No. 17) mailed August 13, 2002, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are respectfully requested.

IN THE CLAIMS

Kindly enter the following amended claims.

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1. (Amended) An isolated DNA encoding a protein having neoxanthin cleavage activity, wherein said protein is selected from the group consisting of:

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- (a) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6;
 - (b) a protein encoded by a gene that hybridizes under stringent conditions with the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:5, wherein said stringent conditions are: (i) hybridization in a solution containing 30% formamide, 6X SSC, 5X Denhardt's solution, and 100 µg/ml denatured salmon sperm DNA at 37°C and (ii) washing in 1X SSC and 1% SDS at room temperature for 15 min;
 - (c) a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:6 having up to ten conservative amino acid substitutions; and
 - (d) a protein comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.